



# Annual Report

## 2007-2008

Fall 2008

*Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri*

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AEYC-MO

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## From the President...

It has been my privilege to serve as the AEYC-MO President for the past two terms and I am encouraged by the growing sense of commitment to affiliation at the local and state level.

In the 2007-2008 program year, AEYC-MO members increasingly sought opportunities to better serve children and families and found support and assistance through the association.

We have embarked on some

new initiatives that are noted in this report and continue to serve the membership through well established programs.

I am very grateful for the excellent work of the AEYC-MO Board of Directors and their dedication to making AEYC-MO a high performing, inclusive organization. I also appreciate the participation and investment of over 1200 members across our state and am thankful for their continued service to



**Michael B. Abel,**  
**AEYC-MO President**

Missouri's young children and their families.

## AEYC-MO Honors Dr. Peggy Pearl

Dr. Peggy Pearl was honored at the 2008 AEYC-MO Annual Meeting for her distinguished career and service to professionals, children, and families in Missouri. She served as the AEYC-MO President from 1978 to 1980 and received the AEYC-MO Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Advocate for Children presented October 11, 1991. Retiring in 2007

from a long-standing tenure as a professor at Missouri State University, Dr. Pearl leaves a great legacy of early childhood students that benefited from her instruction, leadership, and example. She has served Missouri in extensive and diverse roles through groups such as professional associations, review boards, expert panels, commissions, and advisory committees. Her AEYC service at a na-

tional level includes the NAEYC Research to Practice and Policy Interest Group Leadership Team (1996-2004), NAEYC Panel on Early Childhood Professional Development (1999-2003), and NAEYC Children and Violence Panel /Committee, (1994-97). Peggy is recognized as a tireless advocate for children and families and great friend to AEYC-MO.

## President's Council

AEYC-MO established the President's Council in the 2007-2008 program year as a vehicle to increase collaboration among the Missouri state affiliate and the four local chapters. Council members include the presidents, immediate past presidents, and president-elects from each of the associations. The

AEYC-MO President met individually with each of the chapter presidents in the Fall 2007 to discuss the formation of the Council. The first meeting was held on January 12, 2008. The Council developed policies, procedures, and protocols to facilitate communication and coordinate activities between the

chapters and the state affiliate. At the initial Council meeting, a technical assistance plan was developed to guide AEYC-MO in addressing the identified needs of local chapters. The coordination of membership marketing and website hosting are examples of some of the needs addressed by the Council.

## Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund

By Mike Abel, President, AEYC-MO



The recognition and support of emerging early childhood leaders in Missouri continues through additional contributions to the

Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund and its sustained endowment.

The program received national attention when an article, "Navigating the Road for Early Childhood Leaders" regarding the Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund was published in the May 2008 issue of *Young Children's*

*Journal*. The article was co-authored by Mike Abel, Denise Mauzy, Kathy Thornburg, and Margo Heger.

The AEYC-MO Board of Directors was pleased to announce that Rebecca Rentchler is the 2008 Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund award recipient. Rebecca is a member of the Central AEYC chapter and actively serves as Public Policy Chair. She is a site director for the Adventure Club in the Columbia Public Schools serving seventy-five children. Rebecca attended the 2008 NAEYC Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas and looks forward to sharing insights

she gained there with members at Central AEYC.

Award recipients must be actively involved in the Association, plan to attend a state or national conference, and intend to bring back knowledge and information gained to members of the local chapter. In addition, award recipients must identify a professional mentor who will work with them during the coming year and support their professional efforts. The application for the 2009 Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund award will be available on the AEYC-MO website in February 2009.

## Director's Credential

By Mike Abel, President, AEYC-MO

The Missouri Early Childhood Director Credential, issued by AEYC-MO, was introduced at the Early Childhood Summit on November 13, 2008. The AEYC-MO Credentialing Committee worked for several years on the criteria and process for this program. Mid-America AEYC led a bi-state team of volunteers from Kansas and Missouri that collaborated to create reciprocal criteria and to identify core competencies that were introduced to the community in March 2008.

The Credential validates competencies achieved by early childhood professionals through education, experience, and service. Those individuals receiving credentials demonstrate their ability in center-based leadership and management for programs serving

children aged birth to kindergarten entry. Two levels of credentials are offered: 1) Provisional Director Credential and 2) Director Credential.

The Provisional Director Credential is an interim step to recognize the competency of emerging program directors as they aspire to the higher standards set forth in the Director Credential criteria. Both credential levels have a term of five years before they must be renewed and continuous professional development is required for both credential levels.

The application process includes registration with Missouri's Professional Achievement and Recognition System (PARS) through the OPEN Initiative. A five-member commission

will be appointed to recommend applicants for credentialing.

An initial pilot cohort of applicants will be selected to test and refine the process and policies. Collaborative work with the Kansas Department of Health and Education (KDHE) and the Missouri School Age Community Coalition (MOSAC<sup>2</sup>) is underway to develop reciprocal early childhood and youth development credentials that will be honored by each organization. Higher education institutions in Missouri are also working together to provide specialized coursework in early childhood leadership and management. A comprehensive promotional effort will be implemented in the 2008-2009 program year.

## Leadership Academy Task Force

By Mike Abel, President, AEYC-MO

AEYC-MO formed the Leadership Academy Task Force in March 2008 to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a Leadership Academy as an expansion of the Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund.

Under the direction of chairperson Amber Sparks, the Task Force is

examining models of other organizational leadership academies and projecting the resources necessary for creating such a program.

The committee identified goals for the leadership academy such as to increase the number of leaders within the statewide membership, to create a

cohort of professionals that would network and collaborate, and to help professionals reach their potential as leaders in our field.

A report of the feasibility study will be presented to the AEYC-MO Board of Directors in 2009.

## 2008 Annual Public Policy Report

By Mary Spence, Public Policy Chair, AEYC-MO

The AEYC-MO public policy committee focused primarily on three issues in the 2008 legislative session. Position statements were developed regarding the Quality Rating System, increases in Missouri Child Care Subsidies and Universal Prekindergarten. (see AEYC-MO website)

Rep. Ward Franz (HB1524) and Senator Charlie Shields (SB 726) each sponsored bills that would have established a statewide Quality Rating System for Missouri. The bill passed in the Senate in early spring, but unfortunately died in the House on the last day of the legislative session. Advocates are hopeful for success in 2009.

Missouri is currently ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation with income eligibility for child care assistance at 127% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The rate will stay the same in 2009 but now offers a transitional benefit of up to 139% FPL, which will allow families who receive income increases of up to \$1.00 per hour to maintain their child care eligibility benefits.

AEYC-MO supports an increase of

185% by 2010. Rep. Clint Zweifel (HB 1692) and Senator Jeff Smith (SB779) sponsored bills that would expand access to high quality pre-k programs but neither bill advanced out of the committee hearings.

**“One of our ongoing goals is to develop relationships with the local media and to highlight positive developments in early childhood in the local news”**

AEYC-MO actively participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Advocacy Day, in Jefferson City, as a member of the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth and Families. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This is a very important day for educating your legislators about children’s issues.

Organization members were invited to speak on behalf of AEYC-MO at the Citizens for Missouri’s Children legislative wrap up session and the Milton Rose Friedman Early Education Panel this past summer. Both events were opportunities for AEYC-MO to network with other organizations and to share our mission and vision with the larger community.

One of our ongoing goals is to develop relationships with the local media and to highlight positive developments in early childhood in the local news. The Kansas City Star and the St. Louis affiliate of FOX News offered pieces highlighting the QRS legislation last winter.

Child advocates need to keep forging ahead. Write to your local newspaper voicing the importance of children’s issues. Counter the negative articles with pieces about all the good that is happening in your communities. Let’s raise awareness and educate the public. High quality, affordable, and accessible early childhood education prepares children for elementary school and allows parents to work.

## Leadership Academy Feasibility Study Committee Report

By Amber Sparks, Leadership Academy Committee Chair

Over the past seven months, work has been done to conduct a feasibility study for an AEYC-MO Leadership Academy. The committee has completed the following tasks:

1. Presented to AEYC-MO Board for approval to conduct study and recruited committee members. (April 18)
2. Submitted article for AEYC-MO Newsletter recruiting members for committee. (May)
3. Met with Denise Mauzy and Kathy Thornburg to explore partnership between the academy and the KRT Leadership Scholarship Fund. (May 22)
4. Met with Stacey Owsley (MHSSCO) and Donna Veatch (MHSA) to discuss possible partnership with Missouri Leadership Institute sponsored by MHSA. (June 3)
5. Committee members held 3 conference calls to discuss the goals for an academy, the target audience, the application process, the structure of the academy, and possible partnerships with other organizations.
6. Participated in conference call with Donna Veatch (MHSA) and Dr. Tim Nolan (consultant) to further discuss possible partnership with MO Leadership Institute. (Oct 15)

Work continues to be completed via email among committee members, with the final feasibility report scheduled to be presented to the AEYC-MO Board during the January 09 board meeting.

Committee Members include: Amber Sparks, Mike Abel, Juanita Springate, Judy Simpson, Nancy Dees, Joanna Cemore, and Kathy Lorts.

## Annual Election Results

By Loxie Stock, Governance Committee Chair AEYC-MO

The annual election were help this past spring for three open positions on the governing board.

Mary Stone from the Ozark Chapter was elected as the President-Elect of the Association and will assume her duties as the President of AEYC-MO in the spring of 2009.



**Mary Stone,**  
Nixa, MO  
Ozark Chapter

Judi Estes was elected to complete an the un-expired position as the secretary, and will serve for a one year term in that position. Judi is from the Mid-America Chapter and will be eligible for re-election in the up-coming election to a full term position.



**Judi Estes,**  
Kansas City, MO  
Mid-America Chapter

Jan Frost of the Central Chapter was elected to her first full two year term as the treasurer. She was completing an appointment to an un-expired term as the treasurer at the time.

We thank them for their leadership and service to the governing board.



**Jan Frost,**  
Columbia, MO  
Central Chapter

## Midwest Council Report

By Kelly Hantak, MIDWEST Representative for AEYC-MO

In April, as the Midwest Council Representative for AEYC-MO, I attended the 2008 Midwest Leadership Conference hosted by Iowa AEYC.

Peter Pizzalongo and Gwen Simmons from NAEYC were the featured speakers at the Des Moines, Iowa event. In 2009 the leadership event will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on May 2nd,

with Gaye Gronlund, author and consultant as the featured speaker.

AEYC-MO has been asked to host the Midwest Leadership event in 2010, which is currently being examined. A location in the Greater St. Louis area is being considered, but cannot be secured until the early part of 2009.

A speaker from NAEYC will be negotiated for the 2010 event, which will be open to all Midwest Council, State Affiliate and local Chapter representatives as well as other leaders in the field of early childhood education. Watch for additional information forthcoming this next year.

## Association Management Services

By Mike Abel, President, AEYC-MO

In September 2007, AEYC-MO contracted with Cindy Imhauser to provide association management services and operational assistance to the state office.

Serving as Executive Assistant, Cindy successfully transitioned into the role and has significantly improved the

continuity and responsiveness of the association. With twenty years of similar service to Rivers Bend AEYC, she brought a wealth of experience to the position and was "ready on day one!"

One of her most significant accomplishments was the technical assis-

tance she provided in developing and designing websites for the Central AEYC and Ozark AEYC chapters.

Under her leadership, AEYC-MO now provides website hosting and management for all four chapters and the state affiliate.

## AEYC-MO Mission Statement

*AEYC-MO, an organization for early childhood professionals, fosters excellence in early childhood systems and programs through advocacy, education, and professional development .*

# “Shaping the Future”, 2008 Early Childhood Summit

By Dana McMillan, Vice President, AEYC-MO

AEYC-MO is sponsoring the second annual Shaping the Future Early Childhood Summit in partnership with Missouri Head Start Association (MHSA) on November 13–14, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Select Executive Conference Center in Columbia, MO.

Thursday’s opening Keynote Presentation, Ready or Not: Leadership Choices in Early Care and Education will be presented by lead author Dr. Stacie Goffin. In her thought provoking work, Dr. Goffin explores the issues facing changes and new realities in the field of early care and education

and calls the question: What defines and bounds early care and education as a field ?

Other sessions include topics on language development, social issues facing families, health, behavior, instruction and much more. The Summit Design Committee is partnering with OPEN Initiative to code each session to reflect which Competency Standard and Level is addressed.

On Thursday, November 13 AEYC-MO will sponsor a luncheon which will include a brief

business meeting, Advocacy Day up-date and a special recognition of longtime member Peggy Pearl.

Friday’s Luncheon and Keynote Presentation presented by Robert Meyer, on Generational Differences helps participants understand how each generation approaches their work and understand what we all need to know to work effectively with others.

Exhibitors from a wide-range of businesses and not-for-profit agency will be in attendance to meet with attendees.

**Dr. Goffin calls the question.... “What defines and bounds early care and education as a field?”**

## Membership Report

By Marcia Hilderbrand, Membership Chair, AEYC-MO

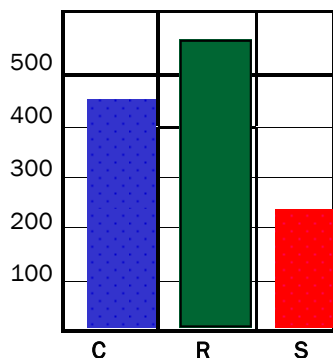
AEYC-MO is pleased to report that membership has increased from 1227 last year to 1270 this year.

We have also updated the website at [www.AEYC-MO.org](http://www.AEYC-MO.org), making it even easier to renew or become a member. Just click on the icon on the left side of any page of the website that says, “Ready to Join Now” and follow the instructions.

Many member mailings are now done electronically, and if there is no current email address in the NAEYC database, then information will not be transmitted to the members.

Therefore, AEYC-MO asks that members update their email and snail mail addresses so that the organization can continue to serve the membership effectively. To make updates to your personal information :

- Log into the NAEYC website (<http://www.naeyc.org>)
- Click “Members” on the left navigation bar
- Select “Members Only Account Login” (you will need your member number)
- Log into the members only section.
- Select “Manage Your Membership Account”
- Update information
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click “submit”



**AEYC-MO Membership**  
**Aug 31, 2008 – 1270 members by Level**  
 Comprehensive.....456  
 Regular.....576  
 Student.....238

## FY07 Financial Report

(9/1/07— 8/31/08)

Data provided by Clarence Jett, CPA  
 Columbia, MO

INCOME	
Membership Dues	27,682.60
NAEYC Affiliate Council	500.00
NAEYC Fast Cash	1,500.00
KRT Leadership Fund	800.00
Early Childhood Summit	3,583.79
Retail Sales	3,810.00
Interest	178.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,054.44</b>
EXPENSES	
Administrative	6,873.77
Contract Services	20,882.53
Travel	3,651.03
Board of Directors	6,901.96
Committees	594.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,903.30</b>

## Play, Policy and Practice Interest Forum

By Mike Abel, President, AEYC-MO

In the 2007-2008 program year, AEYC-MO became one of two states in the nation to sponsor a Play, Policy and Practice Interest Forum. A committee, under the leadership of Patricia Durkin, Early Childhood Instructor, at

Fontbonne University, hosts Missouri's Play, Policy and Practice Interest Forum on the NAEYC website. The Play, Policy, Practice Interest forum is an online community of early childhood professionals that seek to examine play

from multiple perspectives.

The committee also co-sponsored "Show-Me How to Play Again," a three-day retreat on June 26–28, 2008, at Fontbonne University, in St. Louis.

## “Show Me How to Play Again” Retreat

By Mary Stone, President-Elect, AEYC-MO

“Constructive, exploratory, and dramatic play is at the heart of early childhood education. Play experiences are key to children forming early understandings about the natural world, mathematical and early literacy ideas, and social competence. Yet in many early care and education programs and throughout our society, play is overlooked and undervalued.” This powerful statement is quoted from the article *Learning to Play Again, A Constructivist Workshop for Adults* found online at the NAEYC resource “Beyond the Journal.”

Early childhood professionals have long understood the importance of play. It is how children learn and make sense of their world and the world around them. Yet there exists a disparity between what we know and the pressures we feel to leave that knowledge behind. How can we bring our beliefs and practice together to support children's natural learning instincts?

**Be knowledgeable.** Play is the “topic de jour” in the field of early childhood. Just “Google” early childhood play and you'll find many resources to learn about the importance of play in early childhood. Favorite websites include:

- The Association for Childhood Education International ([www.acei.org](http://www.acei.org)),
- Alliance for Children ([www.allianceforchildren.net](http://www.allianceforchildren.net))
- and National Association for the Education of Young Children ([www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)).

**Be prepared to advocate for play.** Start with the parents you come in contact with and don't forget your school district officials and elected officials. Use information from sources your audience will find relatable. NPR, the Wall Street Journal, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have all published recent articles about the importance of play. This exert from the AAP website (<http://aap.org>) might give you ideas of what information to share.

A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) says free and unstructured play is healthy and - in fact - essential for helping children reach important social, emotional, and cognitive developmental milestones as well as helping them manage stress and become resilient.



“Show Me How To Play Again”  
Retreat

The report, "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds," is written in defense of play and in response to forces threatening free play and unscheduled time. Whereas

play protects children's emotional development, a loss of free time in combination with a hurried lifestyle can be a source of stress, anxiety and may even contribute to depression for many children, the AAP report states.

**Be willing to play as an adult.** In April, Patricia Durkin, an Early Childhood Instructor at Fontbonne University, and Susan Blandford, Executive Director of the St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center, Inc., approached the AEYC-MO board with an excellent opportunity to help sponsor the 11th Annual Leadership Training & Networking Retreat, “Show-Me How to Play Again.”

This three day event was held in June at Fontbonne University. In true collaborative style, the MSU MPP program and OAEYC partnered to send 3 child care providers to this conference/retreat. The experience allowed participants to rediscover the importance of play for themselves and for all ages.

As participants reconnected with play they remembered the needs of children and how to communicate with children. As one conference attendee stated, “...we as providers forget to play ourselves. We get so busy taking care of everyone else that we often forget the importance of taking time to play for myself.”

For more information about the event, visit the St. Louis Teachers' Recyclable Center (another conference sponsor and helpful resource) website at [www.stlrc.com](http://www.stlrc.com) then click on the 2008 Show-Me Play Retreat link.

## Affiliate Council Annual Report to the Membership

By Mary Beth Mann, Affiliate Council Representative, AEYC-MO

The role of the Affiliate Council is to act as an advisory body to support the continuing transformation of the NAEYC affiliate structure as a high-performing, inclusive organization. The purpose of the Affiliate Council is to provide a forum for networking among affiliates nationally. The Council develops recommendations for NAEYC board with particular focus on affiliate issues and those priorities that the NAEYC board names as priorities each year. A final purpose is to identify and develop a strong, inclusive leadership. Each state affiliate plus Puerto Rico and Europe are represented on the Council.

As AEYC-MO's representative to the Council, my primary job is to serve as a conduit of information from Affiliate membership to Council, from Council to Affiliate membership and from Affiliate Council to state and local boards in an effort to support the up-down-across communication process. This report is an effort to share just a few of this year's highlights from the national organization.

This year has been an exciting year in NAEYC history making. In October 2008, the first *Teaching Young Children* journal will be published. This practical journal translates research and theory into applications and ideas for teachers who work directly with young children in the classroom. In collaboration with Derry Koralek, Editor-In-Chief, Periodicals and Related Resources

and Matt Munroe, Director of Marketing, NAEYC is pleased to provide a one year's subscription to all local affiliate chapter and state affiliate presidents beginning this fall. TYC will be published in October and December of 2008, and February, April, and June of 2009 (total of 5 issues per year). This journal will be an option on the membership menu for NAEYC.

The Professional Development Institute (PDI) was held in New Orleans in June. Mark Ginsberg reported on activities associated with NAEYC and PDI. On Saturday prior to the Institute, NAEYC coordinated a volunteer effort so that participants would have the opportunity to assist with helping New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Due to time constraints over 100 members participated. This year's PDI also marked the largest pre-registration of 1900 conferees! Next year the **NAEYC Institute for Professional Development, is in Charlotte, NC, from June 14-17, 2009. "Play: Where Learning Begins"** is the theme followed by Phoenix, AZ in 2110.

Following the Annual Conference in Dallas, TX this year, the next Annual Conferences will be held in Washington, DC in 2009, and in Anaheim, CA in 2010. Mark reflected on this year's electronic voting for Governing Board positions. This was the first year there were 3 options for voting – written, by phone, and on line. This innovation more than

**doubled** the participation of members in the Board elections.

At this year's NAEYC Conference in Dallas, the revised version of the *DAP Guidelines* with authors Carol Copple and Sue Bredekamp will be launched followed by a whole cadre of other rollout opportunities for affiliates. NAEYC has developed a very extensive marketing plan with follow up activities, some of which include:

- Online (video) "Launch of DAP"—Early January 2009. Purpose of this event is promotion of the position statement/book and for (general) information sharing. Focus on excellence and equity, continuity and change.
- Online (video) program: Intentional Teaching
- Online (video) program: Play
- DAP Web site active beginning December 2008, used for marketing the launch (there will be other marketing vehicles, as well)
- Online Video Presentation—available to all viewers for no fee—will be announced as beginning January 12, 2009, and available through March; afterwards, available as a Members-Only benefit.

For additional information about the "Launch of DAP", or other additional information regarding any part of this report, please contact me at [MaryBethMann@missouristate.edu](mailto:MaryBethMann@missouristate.edu).

## AEYC-MO Collaboration

By Mike Abel, President, AEYC-MO

AEYC-MO participated on a number of initiatives at the state and community level in 2007-2008.

AEYC-MO was a co-sponsor for a number of Town Hall Meetings sponsored by Citizens for Missouri's Children to review the 2008 Mis-

souri Legislative Session and present localized statistics from the Kid's Count Data Book.

Representatives from AEYC-MO served on the Healthy Minds, Healthy Learners, Healthy Schools initiative and participated in the

Early Childhood Mental Health Summit on June 16-17, 2008.

The affiliate was represented on the planning teams for Conference on the Young Years that was held on March 5-8, 2008 and will be held on March 13-14, 2009.

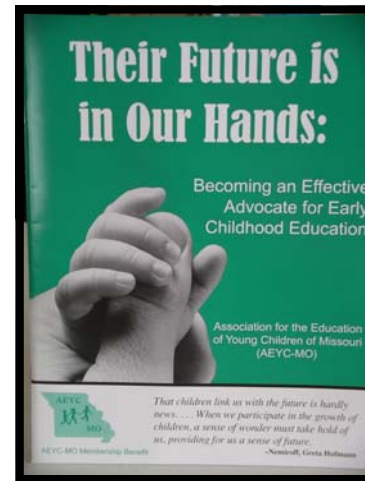
# AEYC-MO Advocacy Handbook

AEYC-MO is proud to make available the book

## *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*

This book is a brilliant introduction to the legislative process in Missouri, and is a must-read for every advocate who seeks a fully-funded early childhood system in our state. Edited by Michelle Mathews and Denise Mauzy and dedicated to Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg and Dr. Peggy Pearl, this is the only guide specific to early childhood advocacy in Missouri.

Books can be purchased online through the AEYC-MO website in the “shop” section. Books sell for \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. <http://www.aeyc-mo.org>



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Kansas City, MO

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